

Had I been present, I would have voted:

‘Aye’ on rollcall vote 1142—H. Res. 842, Expressing sympathy to and pledging the support of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States for the victims of Cyclone Sidr in southern Bangladesh.

‘Aye’ on rollcall vote 1143—H. Res. 847, Recognizing the importance of Christmas.

‘Aye’ on rollcall vote 1144—H.R. 4343, The Fair Treatment for Experienced Pilots Act.

TRIBUTE TO ETHEL CONNORS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Ethel Connors, manager of United Trust & Savings Bank in Dougherty, IA, after serving her community for over 58 years.

In 1944, Ethel returned to Dougherty to be closer to her mother after her father died, leaving her position as a private secretary to Ward Hamilton at Hamilton Business College in Mason City, IA. Shortly after she began working at the United Trust & Savings Bank she took over as manager. At 90 years of age, Ethel has become a town institution, serving not just as the bank manager, but the unofficial town historian as well.

Ethel Connors has left a permanent mark on the city of Dougherty and the surrounding region and will be truly missed at the United Trust & Savings Bank. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending Ethel for her leadership and service to the community of Dougherty and congratulating her on her retirement. I consider it an honor to represent Ethel in Congress, and I wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement as she continues to play an integral role in her community.

IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3541, the Do Not Call Improvement Act. The legislation is simply very straightforward and I believe merits the support of all Members.

The bill removes the requirement for the Federal Trade Commission to remove consumers' phone numbers from the Registry. The original rules for the Registry required consumers to re-register their phone number every 5 years. This was intended to keep the list accurate over the years as numbers were disconnected and reassigned to new customers. The rules as they currently are would result in many millions of Americans being removed from the Do-Not-Call list each year, whether they like it or not. The bill before us changes these rules by requiring that numbers on the Registry remain there, so that people's

dinners don't start getting interrupted by telemarketers all of a sudden. At the same time, we direct the FTC to keep the list accurate by periodically “scrubbing” the list of invalid and disconnected numbers. I think this strikes the right balance for consumers and the industry. I urge support for the bill.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF FATHER FLANAGAN'S BOYS TOWN

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the founding of Father Flanagan's Boys Town 90 years ago today in Omaha, NE. Father Flanagan came to Omaha as a frail Catholic priest determined to make a difference and he found his calling in caring for, educating and housing orphaned boys. Father Flanagan's attitude can best be summed up by his famous aphorism “there are no bad children.” He firmly believed this and it became the basis of the work of Boys Town.

Another aphorism attributed to the children of Boys Town is: “He ain't heavy Father, he's m'brother.” This simple statement encompasses what we all know—that with help from our peers and our Creator we can bear any burden to help those in need.

The difference Father Flanagan made in the lives of young people resonates to this day. Because of Father Flanagan's commitment to improving the lives of children, Boys Town now assists homeless or at-risk children in 14 States as well as the District of Columbia. In fact, last year approximately 450,000 children and families found help through Boys Town National Hotline. This number includes 34,000 calls from youth where hotline staff intervened to save a life or provide counseling. These numbers are truly impressive for one organization.

Father Flanagan's work even led to the production of the movie Boys Town starring Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney, for which Spencer Tracy earned the Academy Award. Using the fame generated by the Academy Award winning movie, Father Flanagan expanded his work on the welfare of children beyond the United States and traveled to Japan and Korea in 1947 to study child welfare problems. He made a similar trip to Austria and Germany, and while in Germany he died on May 15, 1948 of a heart attack. He was buried in the Dowd Chapel at Boys Town.

Madam Speaker, without Father Flanagan and his dedicated work, which continues through Boys Town, our Nation would be a poorer place spiritually. I believe that Father Flanagan's Boys Town is an excellent example of the positive impact faith-based institutions can have on our society. Father Flanagan's Boys Town is now Father Flanagan's Girls & Boys Town to reflect the fact that it serves all children.

I commend their continued commitment to the children of this Nation and believe they deserve the recognition of Congress on the celebration of the 90th Anniversary of Boys Town's founding.

TRIBUTE TO THE VFW POST NO. 2541 ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 2541 on their 75th anniversary. Post 2541 has been organized since 1932 in Algona, IA, which is located in Kossuth County.

No one has done more to secure America's freedom and prosperity than our veterans who have valiantly defended our country. I commend all past and present members of Post 2541 for their dedicated service to America as they celebrate this historic milestone in their post's history.

The mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is to “honor the dead by helping the living” through veterans' service, community service, national security and a strong national defense. For 75 years, Post 2541 has lived out this mission for the betterment of their community and the United States of America.

Again, I congratulate the Kossuth Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 2541 on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to represent each member of this remarkable chapter in Congress, and I wish them an equally storied future.

DO-NOT-CALL REGISTRY FEE EXTENSION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2601, Do Not Call Registry Fee Extension Act of 2007. I am a cosponsor of the legislation and I want to thank Mr. STEARNS for his great work on this bill, and for his leadership on this issue.

I have never seen a legislative proposal move so quickly and achieve such immediate popularity. In the 108th Congress, then-Chairman Tauzin introduced the bill and it became law in less than 2 months. After a court challenge, it was clear that we needed to shore up the FTC's authority, and a bill for that purpose was offered and became law in just 5 days.

I am glad that Mr. STEARNS, along with Mr. RUSH, Mr. PICKERING and Mr. DOYLE, have worked with the FTC to reauthorize and improve that program, and I offer my strong support. I am also grateful to the FTC for their great work in keeping dinnertime uninterrupted for me and 145 million others. This is one instance in which Congress has received near-unanimous, bipartisan approval from the public, and I urge all Members to support H.R. 2601.